

Why doesn't the library carry more copies of eBooks? Why are so many popular titles missing?

Simply put, digital books carry more restrictions than print books. Publishers charge libraries more for eBooks and often limit how we can lend eBooks. Some titles are not available for libraries to purchase.

When libraries or consumers purchase print books, we own them outright and can do with them as we wish. In contrast, we don't own eBooks; we license them, and are subject to the terms and conditions set forth by each publisher or distributor. Below is an overview of the six biggest publishers and their current eBook licensing practices with libraries.

Simon and Schuster – On June 14, 2014, Simon & Schuster began licensing eBooks to libraries in all of the major formats. Purchased titles expire after 1 year. Libraries are required to display a "Buy It Now" button to permit patrons to purchase the eBook.

MacMillan - On July 29, 2014 Macmillan announced that its entire catalog would be available under its library lending program. All titles are available for a 2 year/52 lend period (whichever comes first).

Hachette- As of May 8, 2013 Hachette's full catalog of titles became available for library lending. Initial price is three times the primary physical book price. One year after publication, the license price will drop to one and a half times the primary book price. There is no set limit on the number of checkouts or duration of the license.

Random House (division of Penguin Random House after merger) - makes its complete catalog of titles available for library lending as well as digital audio titles. All titles are available under perpetual licensing. No loan limits or period of use limits. The price varies, but is generally 3 to 4 times the hardcover list price for the eBook.

Penguin Group USA (division of Penguin Random House after merger)- makes its complete catalog of titles available for library lending, including a one-year expiration date on eBooks. Library pricing is similar to what is offered to individual consumers.

HarperCollins- will license eBooks to libraries. However each title can only be circulated 26 times. After 26 readers have checked out the title, the library must repurchase it. The price varies but is not generally more than the cost of hardcover and often much less.

Cost Comparison Chart

- Library print cost versus eBook cost
- eBook prices for library versus eBook prices for consumers

Title & Author	Publisher Print price for library / discount Baker & Taylor	Ebook price for library	Ebook price for consumer
Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins	\$26.95 / \$14.74	\$19.99 (1 year license)	Kindle: \$6.99
All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doer	\$27.00 / \$14.77	\$14.99 (1 year license)	Kindle: \$12.99
Being Mortal Medicine and What Matters in the End <u>Atul Gawande</u>	\$26.00 / \$14.77	\$60.00 (2 year license or 52 checkouts whichever comes sooner)	Kindle: \$10.99
The Road to Character by David Brooks	\$28.00 / \$15.32	\$84.00	Kindle: \$11.95
Memory Man by David Baldacci	\$28.00 / \$15.32	\$84.00	Kindle: \$9.99
*prices quoted on 5/14/2015			